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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

BETTER REGULATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026

GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS
SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Presented by
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Minister for City and Government Services
October 2026

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BETTER REGULATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026 – GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS

This Supplementary Explanatory Statement relates to the Government amendments to the Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (the **Bill**). It has been prepared to assist the reader of the bill and to help inform debate. It does not form part of the bill and has not been endorsed by the Assembly.

The statement is to be read in conjunction with the Bill and the explanatory statement prepared in support of the Bill, as introduced in the Legislation Assembly on 6 May 2026.

OVERVIEW OF GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS

The Bill amends 18 Acts and four Regulations to improve public access to information and, where relevant, remove regulatory burden. The amendments in the Bill to the *Food Act 2001* and the *Public Health Act 1997* propose introducing new publicly accessible electronic registers for:

- Food businesses
- Public health risk activity licences
- Public health procedure licences
- Registered people under the Public Health Act

The government amendments make changes to the Bill to address potential unintended consequences resulting from the deferred commencement of only some the provisions that make amendments to the Food Act and the Public Health Act.

The government amendments will substitute the commencement provisions in the Bill to include that all amendments to the Food Act and Public Health Act (Parts 13 and 20 respectively) have a delayed commencement of six months after the Act's notification day. This will ensure the continued proper functioning of the regulatory frameworks in these Acts, including ensuring ongoing regulatory compliance, and maintaining community safety while the new publicly available electronic registers are established.

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED APPROACH

Consultation was undertaken with ACT Government stakeholders on the government amendments.

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CONSISTENCY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

Rights engaged

The government amendments engage the following right under the HR Act:

- Section 16 – Right to freedom of expression (promoted)

Rights Promoted

The government amendments promote the right to freedom of expression by maintaining the government's obligation to provide ongoing access to government held information while publicly available registers are established.

Rights Limited

The government amendments do not limit any human rights.

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CLAUSE NOTES

Item 1

Clause 2 (2)

Page 2, line 9

This amendment substitutes clause 2 (2) of the Bill to provide that section 4, part 7, parts 11 to 16 and parts 20 to 23 will commence 6 months after the Act's notification day.

This amendment ensures all amendments to Parts 13 and 20 (the Food Act and Public Health Act, respectively) will have a delayed commencement of six months from notification.

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